

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS ACT 1975: sub-section 6(3)

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) proposes to collect information on International Students using existing Commonwealth government administrative sources for public interest research and statistical analysis purposes.

The information collected references periods from 1 January 2005 onwards and is sourced from Provider Registration and International Student Management System (PRISMS) administration data, covering programs offered nationally. Data will be collected using a secure file transfer.

Information will be collected on a range of characteristics including:

- enrolment data for 5 sectors (Higher Education, Vocational Education and Training (VET), Schools, English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) and non-award (includes enabling and foundation studies))
- enrolments by students on a student visa where the enrolment relates to study onshore at an Australian educational institution
- data based on electronic confirmation of enrolments (CoE) and
- country of origin based on citizenship rather than permanent home residence.

The ABS expects to make statistical and related information from the collection available from late 2024 onwards. The principal users of the information are authorised researchers for approved projects via the Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA).

PLIDA combines data on healthcare, education, government payments, income and taxation, employment, and population demographics. PLIDA provides whole-of-life insights that can improve the lives of Australians, facilitating the use and re-use of public data for research purposes.

International students play an important role in Australia's workforce and education system. This data integrated with PLIDA will help to inform policy issues especially relating to Australia's international tertiary education sector.

To determine the feasibility of the collection and to understand and manage respondent burden consistent with the Government's Regulator Performance Framework, the ABS has assessed that this administrative data collection avoids potential costs and reporting burden by reusing available data.

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